

very good sermon delivered by brother J. Allen Miller. Brother Miller came out to Hudson on the following Wednesday afternoon and preached to a goodly number of the members and friends. May God bless Brother Miller.

MARY DEITZ, Cor. Sec.

Moderator's Address, Pa. Conference

Another year has passed away with its blessings and its opportunities for doing good. Its responsibilities, however, are still upon us. What has been left undone will remain undone, and will not God hold us responsible for that which it was possible for us to do, but neglected it? The many hundreds of souls who have passed away within our state during the last year, and who did not have a true knowledge of God and his word, many of whom it was possible for us as a church to reach, but neglected to do so, God will certainly not hold us guiltless. When you my brethren in the ministry, and the churches under your charge withheld your prorata share, the small sum of twenty-five cents per capita from the home mission board, and which this conference decided you should give to help extend the borders of the church, the work was greatly hindered. Nothing could be accomplished; our evangelist who was elected last year had to remain in idleness the greater part of the time because the board had not the means to send him forth. Work that had been begun in former years, where churches had been established and were in a fair way to become prosperous had to be abandoned, and now where are they? The money that was expended for their establishment has been wasted. People in those districts have lost confidence in the Brethren church, and it will require more money and a great deal harder work to re-establish ourselves in such places than at first. It is lamentable to think of these things. What shall we do? Shall we continue to do as we have been doing? No. We want to get a move on. We want to become more aggressive; push out until we have a flourishing church in every town and city in the state. Think of it, here in Somerset county, which is a Dunkard stronghold, we have but three resident ministers who are actively engaged in the work. No more than we had when we first organized. The same can be said of other counties. The fact is, we are not growing as we should be. It is true, the few churches we have are in a good, flourishing condition; the membership in them is being increased as rapidly as can be expected. But let us not be satisfied with the few churches we have. Instead of three pastors in Somerset county we should have at least a dozen in a few years. We can do this if we but make the proper effort. Shall we not do it? Shall we not become a missionary church? "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," spoken by Christ to the apostles is just as binding upon us to-day as it was upon them at that time. It is spoken to all not to the preachers alone, but to every individual member as well. "Go ye." That means you my brother. Don't excuse yourself and say, "I cannot go." "I cannot preach." This may be true, not all are called to preach, but you can get down in your pocket and give of your means to help send those who can preach, and thus you will be complying with the requirements of the great commission.

I would recommend that this conference adopt a better system of raising mission money. The plan we now have has been in use since our organization, and we know from experience that it is faulty, that it fails to bring the required amount of cash into the hands of the mission board, and never in time to allow the board to work to the best advantage. Always at the close of instead of the beginning of the year. A committee should be appointed at the first session to formulate a plan for future work and submit it to conference before final adjournment for adoption.

I would further recommend that a fund be provided, to be called a building fund, for the purpose of assisting poor congregations to build themselves houses of worship. I do not mean that the money

should be given them, but loaned to them at a low rate of interest until such time that they can repay it. There are some congregations in the state now who need assistance; indeed one whose property is now in the hands of the sheriff. If we had a fund of this kind now we could relieve them. This fund should be at the disposal of the mission board, which should be an incorporated body, legalized by the court to buy and sell real estate for the church, loan money, etc.

Hoping that you will duly consider the suggestions herein made, I pray God's blessings upon the work of this conference. May his spirit guide us in all our deliberations, and may results be reached which will be for the best interests of the church, and for the honor and glory of his great name.

DANIEL CROFFORD, Moderator.

A Communication From Carleton, Neb.

Last Thursday, Dec. 13, while yet at Lawrence, Kan., I received a telegram from my brother J. C. Bauman of this place, to come at once that his wife had died. I arrived here Friday morning, Dec. 14. Funeral on Sat., Dec. 15. Brother McFaden preached an excellent sermon to a large audience of sympathizing friends from the words, "It is well." Brother lost a noble wife. The children a good mother. The Brethren church at Carleton seems in a prosperous condition numbering some over one hundred members. Fifteen years ago at this time I preached here about two weeks. Some members lived here then, but were not organized. It is some over eight years since I was here last. To-day this church is a power for good here. Spiritual life will make any church liberal with their means. The Carleton church stands a living witness to that fact. It is not strictly a wealthy church, yet carries a liberal hand and heart. All missionary appeals are liberally responded to. Their pastor serves them half time. The church furnishes him a neat and comfortable parsonage, and pays him fifty dollars each month. Wouldn't such a demand upon some of your more wealthy churches make you squirm. If my reference to the above facts seem inappropriate please forgive me. I am sincere in the matter. None ought to think that an old, white haired and shelled preacher has an "ax to grind."

The Bible classes stinginess among the grossest of crimes. It is a crime too openly manifest in many churches. I know it is often remarked that we must be cautious even in giving, and guard against recklessness. I endorse that. But I have observed that there is more recklessness shown in covetousness and so-called caution, than in too much liberality.

In my forty-three years of church relation, and especially in near forty-one years of active ministerial labor I have observed that the more liberal churches are the most prosperous, spiritually, numerically and financially.

Dear brethren, give liberally, even at an apparent sacrifice and God in some form will reward you and make you happy. Do all for Jesus' sake.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Sunnyside, Wash.

After a pleasant drive of five days from our home at Salem, Ore., we landed at Sunnyside, somewhat wearied but happy. Brother D. W. Early, our wives and myself with three little ones composed our company. The objects of our visit were somewhat varied, having a desire to look into the merits of the country which is being so rapidly developed by the Christian Co-operative colony and to hold a week's meeting for the strengthening of the cause at that place. It seems remarkable to see such spiritual development in a land where only a quarter decade ago, or half at best, the howling coyote, undisturbed, roamed the sandy desert and only the isolated shepherd boy guarding his two thousand sheep to represent the human population of this district. "The desert shall blossom as the rose" is fulfilled here and while many beautiful homes are being made, Christ is enthroned in most of them. Thru the efforts of Brethren Harrison, Lichty, Rowland, Eby Miller,

et al a goodly Christian element is being attracted to this land. Best of all a most ideal mode of spiritual endeavor has prevailed up to the present time. All denominations affiliate in church and Sunday school, Christian Endeavor, etc., and while the common enemy of souls is in evidence, a much stronger front is thereby maintained. The church attendance, spiritual enthusiasm the singing all indicate a band of workers, with few or no drones to be seen. An attendance of 250 is frequently reported at church and I must say I never addressed a more appreciative audience. The brethren seem determined to make this section noted for the wealth of its spirituality and Christian co-operation as well as for the wealth and productiveness of the soil. Why should not our best lands be filled up and settled by the very best class of people? "Seek ye first the kingdom, etc."

At the close of our six days' meetings at Sunnyside the Brethren held a love feast in one of Brother Harrison's buildings. Our feast was held privately, thirteen being present. I was never more impressed at such a service. Was it not exactly in this way that our Savior instituted these precious ordinances in a place apart. I sometimes think real violence is done to the sacredness and intent of these ordinances when we advertise our communions much as the world would advertise a picnic or celebration.

The meetings closed, we resumed our journey homeward, driving all the way save the distance from The Dalles to Portland. Here we floated down the Columbia thru the Cascade mountains, the most scenic river route in America.

The western country is being very rapidly developed. The resources are unlimited. God's people should be ready to plant the cross in every section inviting settlement, thus securing the land for Christ and the fostering of righteousness.

Salem, Oregon.

J. B. EARLY,

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

It is with pleasure that we come again with our report for the benefit of the readers of the EVANGELIST. While it has been quite a long time since we have been heard from, that is no reason that we are dead or sleeping. We would rather not burden the readers of the EVANGELIST or make ourselves too conspicuous, but once in awhile we like to report where we are and what we are doing. Well, we are now at home resting for a few days from a series of meetings that has just closed at Gretna, Logan county, Ohio. We began our protracted meeting there on Wednesday evening, November 7th, and on Saturday, November 10th, our beloved brother and evangelist, I. D. Bowman came to our assistance and took charge of the meeting and preached with wonderful power for three weeks closing the meeting on Sunday night, Dec. 2, with seven accessions, he going to meet another appointment, and on Tuesday evening we answered the call of the church to come and continue the meeting as the conditions were such that they thought the meeting should not close just then. So we began the work, feeling our weakness as never before. For me to follow Brother Bowman required considerable grace and grit, but with the support of God and the prayers and the full support of the church and all praying people, we entered on the work and continued until Dec. 16, when we brought the grandest revival that the Gretna church ever experienced to a close with eighteen more accessions, making in all twenty-five members added during this revival. So we say, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." The attendance as well as the interest was most excellent thru-out the entire service, and the Brethren church at Gretna is now rejoicing as never before, and while she may rejoice there is just reasons for sorrow, for there are a goodly number who were regular attendants at the services, and of whom we can say there are no better neighbors, who were almost but not fully persuaded, and for them we labored, preached and prayed and fully expected, but it seems as tho they were like Agrippa of old. May God spare them time yet to see their mistake and turn to him and live. And then there are two of our members who are very low,